

Ray released to jail hospital

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., was released from a hospital Monday and transferred to a prison hospital.

Ray, 68, had lapsed into a coma last week and appeared near death from liver disease. His condition improved, and he was discharged Monday from Columbia Nashville Memorial Hospital, where he was admitted Dec. 22.

The prison hospital can provide the level of medical care that Ray requires, his doctor said in a hospital statement.

Ray talked with relatives who visited him at the hospital over the weekend, Correction Department spokesman Jim Rose said. Jerry Ray has said his brother is in the final stages of cirrhosis of the liver.

Ray confessed to the 1968 shooting death of the civil rights leader but recanted three days later and has sought a new trial ever since. He is serving a 99-year sentence.
